

The Special Times



Special Kids
Special Families

OUR MISSION:

To Promote,
Strengthen
and Support
Individuals with
Disabilities,
Their Families &
Caregivers

Special Kids Special Families E-Newsletter

MAY 2023



Hello Friends!

May is Foster Care & Mental Health Awareness Month. During this special month, SKSF recognized our foster families by hosting a Foster Parent Appreciation luncheon. We were grateful that St. Paul Catholic Church donated use of their kitchen and hall and Walmart store #3018 on Venetucci Blvd for their gift card donation. SKSF Foster Families were treated to a wonderful Cinco De Mayo themed meal prepared lovingly by SKSF staff members. It was amazing to see so many dedicated foster families and a great time for all of us to connect.

The Children's Bureau's theme is "Strengthening Minds & Uplifting Families" which highlights the need for a holistic and culturally responsive approach to supporting the mental health needs of those involved with child welfare. Here are some ways you can make a difference & support foster children and families...

- Can you purchase some items on our Foster Care WISH LIST? [Click here](#) for a list to help the program.
- Have you thought about fostering and have questions? [Click here](#) for information on how you can become a foster parent or family.
- [Click here](#) for resources, stories of foster care and key facts and statistics with ways you can make a difference in your community.



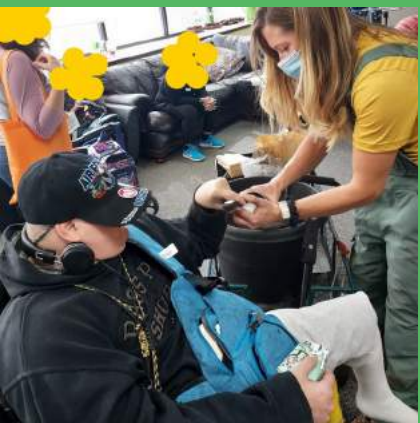
DEAR SKSF FOSTER FAMILIES,
You are the heart of the SKSF mission! Thank you for sharing your home and giving love, encouragement and hope to children and families in need. We appreciate all you do and for answering the call for help.

Special Kids Special Families Staff





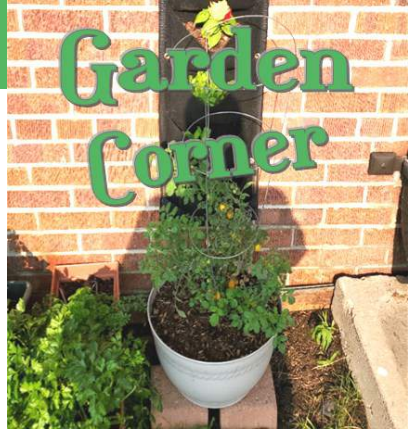
Megan assists adult clients in various ways of planting based on their special needs.



Megan shows youth at Zach's Place center ways to plant bulbs in the soil. The kiddos always love this outdoor activity as it stimulates their fine motor skills & promotes socialization.



This month, our new Master Gardener, Megan Jurgensmeyer had her hands full with preparing the garden beds for summer. Special thanks to the following local businesses for their generous donations [Rick's Garden Center](#), [Rocky Top Resources](#), and [C&C Sand & Stone Company](#).



We couldn't have done so much work without our wonderful volunteers! Youth at the Classical Academy came out during their TCA Day to help at Zach's Place spread top soil for our garden beds and mulch for the playground area. Thanks to the COSILOVEYOU City Serve group for helping build a new garden bed, spread top soil and garden clean up at our Adult Services program. Without their help, none of this would be possible! We appreciate their willingness to volunteer their time and talents to help beautify our gardens for our clients to continue to learn and enjoy.



COSILOVEYOU City Serve Volunteers at Adult Services gardens



The Classical Academy Youth Volunteers at Zach's Place



MISSION MOMENTS



In our Adult Services Building Connections class, clients learned about human rights and the rights of individuals who have a disability. Our clients engaged in thoughtful conversation and reflected on how rights affected their own lives. They talked about self-advocacy and advocating for the rights of others as well. The clients created a list of human rights and were told that if each right were \$200 which would they purchase if they had only \$1000 to spend. It was a lesson to see which rights were most valued and important to them and for what we as a community should continue to advocate. The clients felt very empowered after the class as the photo clearly shows! What a great learning experience for ALL!



It's been a long time since we've seen our friend, Kat Tudor, Creative Director at [Smokebrush Foundation](#) live and in-person! Over the past 3 years we've seen her only virtually as she provided our clients with yoga classes online due to the pandemic - but that's all over! Our Adult Day Program participants finally reunited with Kat at [Lightspeed Curations](#). Program Coordinator, Madeline Dulle said, "It was wonderful to reflect on the positive and feel gratitude in the fact that we were finally able to be together once again." We are grateful that Kat will continue to teach our clients yoga in person in the upcoming months.

[Click here to LEARN MORE about ADULT DAY SERVICES](#)

CHAMPION OF THE MONTH



We'd like to congratulate Adult Services CHAMPION of the Month - Adult Program Participant - Michelle Moons! Michelle is so much fun to be around and is a kind, wise and understanding individual. She immediately connected with her peers and has made many close friends. She sees the positive side to everything and strives to have discussions to resolve conflict. Michelle is a role model for her peers and staff on how to see the best in someone and turn negative situations into positive ones. Congratulations!



SKSF is NOW HIRING

Adult Mentors / Direct Care Providers!

\$18-\$19/hour - this position oversees and supports the client's integration in daily activities and works with our adults with special needs to teach them applicable life skills, including attending to personal needs. The Mentor performs an integral front-line role in meeting the organization's mission. Full time or part time dependent on the program's needs.

[Click here to view ALL JOB OPENINGS](#)

ADDITIONAL JOB OPENINGS:

- [Individual & Family Specialist \(Behavioral Health Program\)](#)
- [Behavioral Health Clinical Services Manager](#)
- [Host Home Program Director](#)
- [Child Care Worker \(Zach's Place Center\)](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark Your Calendars



MAY 25th 9-11am: SKSF will be attending the Pikes Peak Workforce Center (PPWFC) Job Fair for Military & Veterans - [CLICK HERE](#) for more info...

JUNE 6th 5-8pm: Hops N Drops Fundraiser for SKSF
[CLICK HERE](#) for details & to print flyer

JUNE 7th 9-11am: PPWFC 1st Wednesday Job Fair!
Join us to learn more about our job openings! [CLICK HERE](#) for details.

SEPTEMBER 30th 5-9pm: SAVE THE DATE for SKSF's 12th Annual Night of Comedy event to benefit Zach's Place program. [CLICK HERE](#) for ways you can sponsor, donate, attend and help spread the word!

PRESS RELEASE



Check out SKSF's latest
PRESS RELEASE:

[Woodworking Classes](#)

[Empower Adults with](#)

[Developmental Disabilities](#)

NEW Members of...



PROUD MEMBER

**Colorado Springs
CHAMBER & EDC™**



SKSF Executive Director, Kevin Porter &
Director of Development & Communications,
Derek Wilson at Senior Resource Council
Henjum Awards event.

THANK YOU!



**Everyone needs groceries, so
why not let a percentage of
your grocery bill benefit SKSF?**

Thanks to the 46 households that have helped us raise \$430.84 for 1st quarter 2023 through King Soopers Community Rewards Program. When you choose SKSF as your nonprofit of choice, we receive a percentage of your total food and gas bill. IT'S SO EASY to participate! Link your loyalty card TODAY to Special Kids Special Families. The more supporters that shop, the more money we'll raise for our programs! Thank you!
[CLICK HERE](#) for details...

CONTACT US:

Special Kids Special Families

1915 Aerotech Drive, Ste 100, CO Springs 80916
(719) 447-8983 sksf@sksfcolorado.org



LEARN MORE
Night of Comedy

SAVE THE DATE for Sat. 9/30/23! We are so excited for [SKSF's 12th Annual Night of Comedy - Boots, Buckles & Chuckles](#) fundraising event at Boot Barn Hall to benefit Zach's Place center! Help us raise funds to support low income families whose children attend the program - BECOME A SPONSOR! We are seeking businesses to partner with us! You'll receive excellent marketing benefits and each level comes with complimentary admission to the event. Sponsorship levels from \$1k-\$10k.

 Special Kids
Special Families

NIGHT OF COMEDY

12TH ANNUAL **Boots, Buckles & Chuckles**

Proceeds from this event support Zach's Place center which is only one of two licensed daycare facilities in the state offering specialized respite and childcare for children with intellectual, physical and emotional disabilities.

SATURDAY
9/30/23
DOOR OPEN AT 5:30PM
DINNER BUFFET
SILENT AUCTION

\$85/pp*Early
Bird thru 7/31
\$650/table of 8
Includes FREE
drink ticket

Featuring
Ventriloquist
Comedian
GREG CLAASSEN

@ **BOOT BARN Hall**
BY BOURBON BROTHERS

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS:

 **Flood & Peterson**

 **CLASSIC HOMES**

 **EL POMAR FOUNDATION**

 **THE VINTON LAW FIRM, P.C.**

 **MRC Technology**

Seeking Sponsors!
FOR MORE INFO - WWW.SKSF-COLORADO.ORG

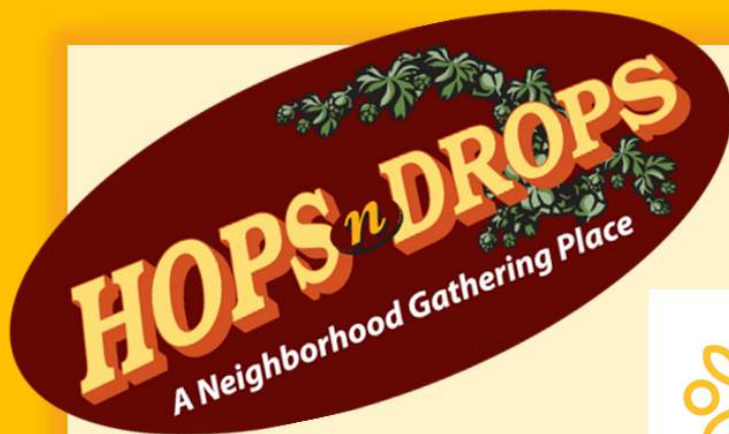
WAYS YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

SPONSOR

DONATE

PRINT A FLYER

REGISTER as a GUEST



Proceeds from this event will help support Special Kids Special Families programs for individuals with disabilities. Thank you!



Special Kids
Special Families

SPECIAL KIDS SPECIAL FAMILIES invites YOU to
attend our FUNDRAISER NIGHT at Hops n Drops!

Join us on

TUESDAY, JUNE 6TH, 2023

5-8PM

@ HOPS n DROPS

5820 Stetson Hills Blvd, Colorado Springs, CO 80922

**Be sure to present this flyer
or mention that you're supporting
Special Kids Special Families**

and HOPSnDROPS will donate 20% of your bill
(food, drinks, gift cards) to SKSF!



Contact us 719-447-8983 x42 | sksf@sksfcolorado.org
or visit online at www.sksfcolorado.org/event/hopsndrops

